

CONFIDENTIAL

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

August 11, 1954
REFERENCE:
NSC Action No. 1185

Terms of Reference for Working Group on
Coordination of NSC 5426 (Iceland)

(Approved by the President July 23, 1954)

1. The President has directed the implementation of NSC 5426 by all appropriate executive departments and agencies, and has designated the OCB as the coordinating agency.

2. To assist the Board in this task, representatives of the following agencies and the OCB staff will constitute a working group, chaired by the Department of State:

- a. Department of State
- b. Department of Defense
- c. Central Intelligence Agency
- d. Foreign Operations Administration
- e. U. S. Information Agency
- f. Other agencies when appropriate, as determined by the OCB Executive Officer.

3. The working group will be guided by pertinent portions of OCB Procedural Memoranda.

4. The working group will obtain necessary data concerning implementation of the NSC policies with which it is concerned and prepare a consolidated report thereon suitable for transmission to the NSC, to be submitted to the OCB Executive Officer on November 30, 1954, covering the period through November 15, 1954. Subsequent reports are due at least every six months thereafter. The working group may also initiate reports at other times.

STATE & NSC reviews completed

CONFIDENTIAL

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.


August 13, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference for Working Group on
Coordination of NSC 5426 (Iceland)

The attached terms of reference on the above subject were approved by the Board Assistants on behalf of their principals by vote-slip action completed on August 11, 1954.

The previous draft of this paper, dated August 2, 1954, is obsolete and may be destroyed in accordance with the security regulations of your agency.


Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer

Attachment:

Subject paper dated 8/11/54.

SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET

COPY NO. 43


OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
708 Jackson Place, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

December 11, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

SUBJECT: U.S.-Icelandic Defense Agreement of May, 1951.

The Chairman has requested that the attached letter be discussed
by the Board at its December 16 meeting.


Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer

Enclosure:

1. Ltr. fm. Hon. Walter P. Smith
to Hon. T. C. Streibert, USIA,
dtd 12/10/53 Re above subject.

SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET

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SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET

COPY NO. 43

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington 25, D.C.

December 10, 1953

Dear Mr. Streibert:

I am much concerned about the steadily deteriorating public attitude in Iceland toward the need for a sustained Western defense effort, which is being specifically expressed in demands that the implementation of the U.S.-Icelandic Defense Agreement of May, 1951, be altered in such a way as would drastically curtail the scope of U.S. operating rights in Iceland. This has developed particularly, and rather spectacularly, since the new Government was formed in Iceland in September.

The Icelandic public has never been markedly sympathetic to the presence of U.S. defense forces in Iceland. The Icelander's basic "anti-foreign army attitude" has received considerable impetus from the Soviet peace drive which followed Stalin's death and on which the Communists in Iceland have capitalized. This drive has persuaded many Icelanders--and the belief has mushroomed--that the reasons for putting up with the "evil of a foreign army" have become less cogent. In fact, complacency has set in to an alarming degree, based on what appears to be a rather widespread impression that the cold war, if not over, is tapering off comfortably. While thus far only a minority would abrogate the Defense Agreement, a majority is apparently in favor of making greater demands on the U.S. and qualifying more sharply the terms under which we are "permitted" to defend Iceland.

The course of the Government in this small community is likely to be swayed by the popular opinion steadily being whipped up by elements either hostile to the U.S. or unsympathetic to the idea of integrated Western defense. Our USIA program in Iceland is currently running on two cylinders, relative to the job it should be doing. We have a tremendous public relations job in Iceland that we are trying to do with pennies. The Russians are making an all-out effort including the sending of concert artists and "cultural" propagandists into Iceland in numbers, and these are being well received. During the past year, our one achievement in this line has been the visit of the Air Force Band in February 1953. USIA, Reykjavik, has lost one American and four locals in the RIF.

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Our Minister to Iceland, Mr. Edward B. Lawson, is presently in Washington on consultation, and I believe it would be desirable for you to see him with a view to reinforcing our information program in Iceland to meet the serious situation which now exists there.

While I am aware that you appreciate the situation and are studying it, I feel you will find the talk with Minister Lawson very profitable in your approach to the problem.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Walter B. Smith

WALTER B. SMITH

The Honorable
Theodore C. Streibert
Director, United States
Information Agency
Washington

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Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP80R01731R003000050008-0

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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FROM:

NO.

Operations Coordination Board (via PP/ICD/

DATE

16 AUG 1954

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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FROM:

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DATE

DEC 11 1953

TO

ROOM
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